

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 15] claim 1, applied to the study or diagnosis or monitoring of infectious diseases, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV or influenza.

17. (Amended) A kit for performing the method of [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

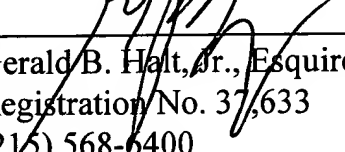
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims as set forth in the Rule 34 amendment annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report, filed on June 24, 1998 to delete reference to multiple dependant claims.

Early consideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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